



# **Rhode Island Department of Transportation TEA-21 Transportation Enhancement Program Project Application Guide**

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The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) and the Transportation Enhancement Advisory Committee (TEAC) announce the call for projects to continue the Transportation Enhancement program under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). TEA-21 is the nation's principal federal surface transportation legislation, providing the states with a wide array of flexible funding programs to improve, preserve, protect, and maintain transportation infrastructure.

RIDOT, in cooperation with the TEAC, is now accepting applications statewide for consideration in the application process. Chief Elected Officials (i.e. Mayor, Town Administrator, Town Council President, etc.) and members of the general public may submit applications. RIDOT strongly recommends that the Chief Elected Official(s) of the municipality(ies) in which selected enhancement project(s) will be implemented, actively acknowledge all enhancement project applications submitted, through written correspondence.



**Plum Beach Lighthouse Before and After**



Wickford Sidewalks,  
North Kingstown



Woonsocket Depot,  
Woonsocket

**What is a Transportation Enhancement?** A Transportation Enhancement is a non-traditional transportation improvement with a link to the intermodal transportation system. Enhancements serve to integrate a transportation facility into the surrounding community and natural environment. TEA-21 has established 12 categories under which projects may be considered for Transportation Enhancement funding.

1. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities;
2. Safety and Educational Activities for Pedestrians and Bicyclists;
3. Acquisition of Scenic Easements and Scenic or Historic Sites;
4. Scenic or Historic Programs, including Tourist and Welcome Center Activities;
5. Landscaping and Scenic Beautification;
6. Historic Preservation;
7. Rehabilitation and Operation of Historic Transportation Buildings, Structures, or Facilities (including historic railroad facilities and canals);
8. Preservation of Abandoned Railway Corridors (including the conversion and use for pedestrian and bicycle trails);



Riverside Square  
East Providence

9. Control and Removal of Outdoor Advertising;
10. Archaeological Planning and Research;
11. Environmental Mitigation to Address Water Pollution due to Highway Runoff or to Reduce Vehicle Wildlife Mortality while maintaining Habitat Connectivity;
12. Establishing Transportation Museums.

**Who Can Apply?** Applications for projects that fall within one or more of the 12 categories listed on the preceding page are now being accepted from Rhode Island's cities and towns and the general public.

*Enhancement applications submitted by groups or individual citizens should be signed by the Chief Elected Official (s) of the municipality(ies) in which the project will be implemented or include a letter of project acknowledgement from the municipality (ies) involved. Applicants should limit their submittal to the application form and space provided.*

## **Application Deadline:** **Friday, February 4, 2005**

**Project Funding:** Program Funding is available for project costs on a reimbursement basis, whereby the applicant pays all costs up front and then is reimbursed by RIDOT. RIDOT, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will typically fund up to 80% of total project costs. Although local matching funds are not required, applicants are strongly encouraged to provide 20% matching funds. Each locally matched project conserves Enhancement funds and enables the TEAC to fund a wider array of projects.

**Project Selection:** RIDOT has established the TEAC, with the mission of evaluating and considering funding proposed Transportation Enhancement projects. The TEAC is comprised of individuals representing groups, agencies and local organizations with broad-based interests and expertise in each of the 12 eligible project categories. The TEAC will evaluate and select a recommended list of projects to be funded and forward that list to the Director of Transportation for approval. Once approved, these Transportation Enhancement projects will be submitted to the State Planning Council's Transportation Advisory Committee, then the State Planning Council and finally the Governor for approval.

**Project Eligibility Criteria:** To be eligible for consideration by the TEAC, the proposed projects must:

- Fall within one of the (12) Transportation Enhancement project categories;
- Have a relationship to the intermodal transportation system;
- Be consistent with/support the goals of applicable local comprehensive plans;
- Be capable of being implemented; and,
- Include adequate provisions for future maintenance and/or operations costs (TEAC funds are not available for this purpose).

**Project Rating Criteria:** The TEAC will rate each project based upon:

- The public demand, purpose, and need for the project;
- The relationship of the proposed project to the Intermodal Transportation System;
- The significance of the project and the quality-of-life improvement gained through implementing the proposed project.

**Other Criteria:** Priority will be given to proposed projects that demonstrate the likelihood of implementation within a two-year period from incorporation in the TIP. Projects that provide positive economic impact and projects that provide for the use of local funds or other federal funds to match TEA-21 Enhancement Program funding are desired.

**Project Approach:** Applicants are requested to consider the use of community resources in the design and/or construction of projects. Community resources eligible under this program include the internal departments of municipalities, their consultants and contractors, or appropriate consultants to private non-profit groups when certain criteria are met. This approach conserves Enhancement Program funds. Cities and towns may also provide in-kind contributions of municipal labor and materials (such as police detail traffic protection) during construction. It is important to note that this is not a grant program. Municipalities and non-profit groups must pay for related services up front and reimbursement will be made.